

Comment on the proposed conservation of *Disparalona* Fryer, 1968 (Crustacea, Branchiopoda)

(Case 2990; see BZN 54: 89–91; 55: 105, 169)

Werner Hollwedel

Oldenburger Strasse 16A, Varel, D-26316 Germany

I write to support the conservation of the name *Disparalona* Fryer, 1968.

The case for the conservation of *Disparalona* is well founded. The genus *Phrixura* Müller, 1867, with which some would replace it, was described from a single, grossly deformed, individual of the species that Müller called *Alona rostrata*, although because of its deformity he failed to recognise it as such. The true identity of the specimen remained unknown for more than 120 years, during which time the name *Phrixura* was never used. Had Müller known the real identity of the specimen he would have assigned it to *A. rostrata*, which he recorded in the same paper as that in which he described *Phrixura rectirostris*. The latter specific name is clearly a synonym of *A. rostrata* and never had any validity.

The number of workers concerned with this nomenclatural problem, raised in his comment (BZN 55: 105, June 1998) by Grygier, a non-specialist on the group, is irrelevant. In fact, as the original application shows, *Disparalona* has often been referred to by this name. The erection of the genus on functional, as well as morphological, grounds more than 30 years ago led to nomenclatural stability. Previously, species of *Disparalona*, of which there are now several, had appeared under several generic names (see, for example, the synonymic list for *D. rostrata* in Flössner, 1972).

The genus *Phrixura* has no standing. The characters on which it was defined are not merely completely worthless for the purposes of definition, but are totally misleading and do not apply to any taxon, and the use of this name can only lead to confusion. Its suppression, and the conservation of *Disparalona*, would be welcomed by students of the Branchiopods.

Additional reference

Flössner, D. 1972. Krebstiere, Crustacea. Kiemen- und Blattfüsser, Branchiopoda. Fischläuse, Branchiura. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands*, 60: 501.

Comments on the proposed conservation of *Phytobius* Dejean, 1835 (Insecta, Coleoptera)

(Case 2957; see BZN 55: 22–23)

(1) Enzo Colonnelli

Via Nicolò Piccinino 15, 00176 Rome, Italy

I consider that the proposal to conserve the generic name *Phytobius* Dejean, 1835 (CURCULIONIDAE) by suppression of *Phytobius* Schönherr, 1833 should not be accepted for the following reasons.